

effective cross-governmental efforts to address the root causes of institutional racism and their downstream impacts; and

Whereas such declaration requires the response of the Government to engage significant resources to empower those communities that are impacted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the resolutions drafted, introduced, and adopted by cities and localities across the United States declaring racism a public health crisis;

(2) declares racism a public health crisis in the United States;

(3) commits to—

(A) establishing a nationwide strategy to address health disparities and inequity across all sectors in society;

(B) dismantling systemic practices and policies that perpetuate racism;

(C) advancing reforms to address years of neglectful and apathetic policies that have led to poor health outcomes for communities of color; and

(D) promoting efforts to address the social determinants of health—especially for Black, Latino, and Native American people in the United States, and other people of color; and

(4) places a charge on the people of the United States to move forward with urgency to ensure that the United States stands firmly in honoring its moral purpose of advancing the self-evident truths that all people are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 173—COM-
MENDING THE ACTIONS OF
CUBAN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTIVIST JOSÉ DANIEL
FERRER GARCÍA AND THE PRO-
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUP, THE PATRIOTIC
UNION OF CUBA (UNPACU), TO
UPHOLD FUNDAMENTAL FREE-
DOMS IN CUBA AND CON-
DEMNING CUBA'S BRUTAL AU-
THORITARIAN COMMUNIST RE-
GIME**

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 173

Whereas José Daniel Ferrer García is a Cuban democracy and human rights activist who has worked tirelessly to ensure fundamental freedoms for the Cuban people;

Whereas José Daniel Ferrer García was born in Cuba on July 29, 1970, in Santiago de Cuba and has spent most of his adult life fighting for Cubans to have a voice in the matters of their own country and against Cuba's brutal authoritarian Communist dictatorship;

Whereas Cuba's authoritarian Communist regime retaliated against José Daniel Ferrer García over decades by repeatedly imprisoning, beating, and torturing him and constantly threatening and harassing his family and members of the pro-democracy and human rights group that he founded, the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU);

Whereas, in March 2021, Cuba's brutal authoritarian Communist regime committed the latest human rights violation against José Daniel Ferrer García and members of UNPACU, as Cuban security forces harassed

them, kept them from meeting, and blocked their attempts to distribute aid, food, and medical care to fellow desperate residents of Santiago de Cuba;

Whereas, on March 20, 2021, José Daniel Ferrer García and other courageous members of UNPACU began a hunger strike to protest the constant harassment, human rights violations, and the police siege of the headquarters of UNPACU in Santiago de Cuba;

Whereas the hunger strike underscored the importance of defending the right of the members of UNPACU to deliver food and medication to a group of approximately 250 residents of Santiago de Cuba as the need for aid, food, medicine, and basic necessities has risen during the global pandemic; and

Whereas, on April 10, 2021, José Daniel Ferrer García and several activists from UNPACU ended the hunger strike after 21 days after Cuban security forces lifted the police siege on the headquarters of UNPACU in Santiago de Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the actions of José Daniel Ferrer García and his unyielding resolve to advance democracy and defend freedoms and human rights for the Cuban people;

(2) honors the vital contribution and humanitarian efforts of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) and all of its members for their tireless work to defend fundamental freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

(3) condemns the repression of José Daniel Ferrer García and other brave Cuban activists;

(4) condemns Cuba's brutal authoritarian Communist dictatorship and demands an end to the suffering of the Cuban people and the impunity of the regime's human rights abusers, including Miguel Diaz-Canel and Raúl Castro;

(5) calls for the international community to stand with the Cuban people and against Cuba's authoritarian Communist regime for infringing on the freedom of thought, expression, assembly, association, and prosperity of the Cuban people; and

(6) commends the courage of the pro-democracy movement and activists in Cuba for risking everything to bring freedom to the Cuban people.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 174—DESIG-
NATING APRIL 2021 AS "PARKIN-
SON'S AWARENESS MONTH"**

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 174

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas, although there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, the disease is estimated to affect between 500,000 and 1,000,000 individuals in the United States, with that number expected to more than double by 2040;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 15th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States are greatly impacted by Parkinson's disease, including the caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals living with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause of the disease in most individuals is still unknown;

Whereas, as of March 2021, there is no objective test or biomarker with which to diagnose Parkinson's disease;

Whereas there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical needs of patients and remain effective over time;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and may include—

(1) tremors;

(2) slowness of movement and rigidity;

(3) problems with gait and balance;

(4) disturbances in speech and swallowing;

(5) cognitive impairment and dementia;

(6) mood disorders; and

(7) a variety of other nonmotor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life of—

(1) individuals living with Parkinson's disease; and

(2) the families of those individuals; and

Whereas increased research, education, and community support services are needed—

(1) to find more effective treatments; and

(2) to provide access to quality care to individuals living with Parkinson's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2021 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of the organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of—

(A) individuals living with Parkinson's disease; and

(B) the families of those individuals.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 175—SUP-
PORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC
HEALTH WEEK**

Mr. LUJÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 175

Whereas the week of April 5, 2021, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2021 is "Building Bridges to Better Health";

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2021 is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the United States and the global community are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires support for—

(1) a robust public health infrastructure and workforce;

(2) State, territorial, local, and Tribal health departments, health care workers, public health laboratories, and first responders;

(3) diagnostic testing of new and potential COVID-19 cases and activities related to epidemiology and public health data;

(4) complying with appropriate social distancing and quarantine recommendations;

(5) relieving financial burdens for individuals in the United States hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through public health emergency leave;

(6) State Medicaid programs and community health centers to ensure care for vulnerable populations;

(7) collaboration among the Federal Government, State and local governments, schools, businesses, and employers to support public health measures to decrease community spread of COVID-19;

(8) investments in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which support infectious disease outbreak preparedness and critical public health infrastructure for State and local health departments and public health laboratories;

(9) a comprehensive effort to ensure a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign that boosts access to vaccines for vulnerable populations and trust in vaccine safety and effectiveness; and

(10) efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 deaths, vaccine access and testing, and important health outcomes outside of the pandemic such as maternal mortality;

Whereas, in 2020, the life expectancy for the population of the United States dropped a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the most healthy States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burden of illness and death, as compared with the entire population of the United States;

Whereas violence is a leading cause of premature death and it is estimated that more than 7 individuals per hour die a violent death in the United States;

Whereas deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United States billions of dollars and the violence of homicides can cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas emergency department visits for suicidal thoughts or self-harm increased 25.5 percent between January 2017 and December 2018, with substantial increases occurring in younger age groups;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experiences child abuse and neglect, which imposes an annual lifetime economic burden of approximately \$428,000,000,000 on the population of the United States;

Whereas, despite significant progress in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, in 2017 the infant mortality rate in the United States greatly varies among States;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries and an estimated 60 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas Black mothers experience a maternal mortality rate 3 to 4 times higher than White mothers;

Whereas 81,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States during the 12-month period ending May 2020, the highest level ever recorded during a 12-month period;

Whereas cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005 to 13.7 percent of the population in 2018;

Whereas, in 2020, according to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey 19.6 percent of high school students (3,020,000 students) and 4.7 percent of middle school students (550,000 students) reported current e-cigarette use;

Whereas data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that in 2020 almost 40 percent of high school e-cigarette users were using an e-cigarette on 20 or more days out of the month and almost a quarter of high school e-cigarette users were using e-cigarettes every day, indicating a strong dependence on nicotine among youth;

Whereas in the past 2 decades heat-related mortality for older persons has almost doubled, reaching a record high 19,000 deaths in 2018;

Whereas from 2018 to 2019 the United States spent nearly \$13 per person on climate change adaptation in the health sector, far less than what is needed to prevent the growing health impacts of climate change;

Whereas, in 2016, fine particulate air pollution led to more than 64,000 premature deaths in the United States and Black and Hispanic individuals in the United States were disproportionately impacted;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a—

(1) 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths;

(2) 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;

(3) 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and

(4) 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms; and

(3) other disasters, including disasters caused by human activity and public health emergencies;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes;

Whereas in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way

they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in—

(A) preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(B) mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in the United States;

(C) addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(D) improving the overall health of individuals and communities in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to—

(A) improve the health of individuals in the United States; and

(B) make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest Nation in the world by—

(i) providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(ii) strengthening the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—URGING ALL PARTIES IN GEORGIA TO SEEK PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON APRIL 19, 2021, AND REAFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR GEORGIA, THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF GEORGIANS TO JOIN THE EURO-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 176

Whereas, on April 9, 1991, Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union, and on March 24, 1992, the United States and Georgia established formal diplomatic relations;

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas, at the 2008 Summit in Bucharest, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recognized the aspirations of Georgia to join NATO and agreed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance;

Whereas, on January 9, 2009, the United States and Georgia signed the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, affirming the close relationship between the United States and Georgia based on the